

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W
-----091131Z 108230 /12

R 091048Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9106

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S VISIT TO JAPAN

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON FEBRUARY 9 MINISTER ODAKA OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY INFORMED DCM THAT GOJ HAD TENDERED INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWIXHIAN TO VISIT JAPAN DURING MIDDLE OF MARCH. INVITATION HAD GROWN OUT OF THANIN'S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO VISIT JAPAN CONVEYED TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER THANIN'S GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED ON OCTOBER 22, 1976.

2. ODAKA SAID THAT, DESPITE RUMORS OF THANIN'S POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN BANGKOK, GOJ IS INTENDING TO PROCEED WITH THE VISIT. JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN TAKING SOUNDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GOJ BEST PROGNOSIS REGARDING THANIN'S SURVIVABILITY. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, INVITED ADMIRAL SA-NGAT CHALOYU TO DINNER LAST WEEK AND IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION HAD ASKED THE ADMIRAL POINT BLANK ABOUT THE RUMORS OF THANIN'S POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT. SA-NGAT REPLIED BY SAYING THAT THE MAJORITY WITHIN THE MILITARY WAS GIVING ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THANIN. SA-NGAT WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN ELEMENTS, "PERHAPS 10 PERCENT" WHO WANTED THANIN REPLACED. AMONG THOSE FAVORING A COUP TO OUST THANIN, SA-NGAT IDENTIFIED GENERAL
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PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, FORMER DEPUTY PRINME MINISTER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF SENI PRAMOT AND GENERAL CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN (FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE KHUKRIT PRAMOT GOVERNMENT). (NEITHER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY GROUP THAT TOOK POWER ON OCTOBER 6, 1976. THEY HAVE WEALTH AND INFLUENCE, HOWEVER, AND IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RESTIVE IN THEIR PRESENT ROLES AS POLITICAL OUTSIDERS.)

3. ODAKA SAID THAT AS OF NOW JAPANESE EMBASSY DOES FEEL
THAT THANIN WILL SURVIVE, CERTAINLY LONG ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO
VISIT JAPAN IN MARCH.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO03147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0187
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770260/aaaacayx.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ba3acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3373426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S VISIT TO JAPAN
TAGS: OVIP, JA, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ba3acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009